

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ITFE-05 DHA-02 ORM-01

AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SCA-01

VO-03 SSO-00 /096 W

----- 012770

R 301152Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8741

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, LA, TH

SUBJECT: LAO REFUGEE ASSISTANCE: KHAMKING APPEAL

REF: BANGKOK 13131

1. FORMER PGNU JUSTICE MINISTER KHAMKING SOUVANLASY, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS RELATIVE COL. BOUNTHAN, VISITED THE EMBASSY JULY 29 TO FOLLOW UP KHAMKING'S MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR A MONTH EARLIER (REF). KHAMKING'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN WAS WHETHER IT WAS YET POSSIBLE FOR LAOTIANS TO ENTER THE US AS REFUGEES.

2. KHAMKING SAID THAT HE AND SEVERAL OTHER LAO FORMER MINISTERS NOW IN THAILAND WISH TO REMAIN HERE UNTIL THE SITUATION IN LAOS CLARIFIES, PROVIDED THE THAI WILL ALLOW THEM TO STAY AND FURNISH THE NECESSARY IMMIGRATION PAPERS. AS FOR THE OTHER LAO HERE, KHAMKING SAID THAT "PERHAPS NINE OUT OF TEN" WILL GO TO FRANCE BECAUSE OF THEIR LONG-STANDING TIES WITH THAT COUNTRY. THE REMAINDER--THOSE WHO EITHER

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STUDIED IN THE US OR WORKED PARTICULARLY CLOSELY WITH

AMERICANS--ARE WAITING IN THAILAND FOR PERMISSION TO COME REFUGEES IN THE US. HE SAID THEIR FINANCIAL SITUATION IS BECOMING DESPERATE AND URGED US TO ACT QUICKLY ON THEIR BEHALF.

3. WE TOLD KHAMKING THAT WE CONTINUE TO AWAIT FINAL WORD FROM WASHINGTON BEFORE WE CAN COMMENCE SENDING LAO TO THE US, BUT WE HOPE TO HAVE SUCH WORD VERY SOON.

4. KHAMKING WAS COMPLETELY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE SITUATION IN LAOS, WHICH HE NOW CONSIDERS TOTALLY COMMUNIST. KHAMKING SAID HE COULD NOT EXPLAIN HOW PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA HAS CHANGED SO MUCH, EVEN THOUGH HE CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN CLOSE TO HIM SINCE 1960. HE DESCRIBED SOUVANNA'S ANGER WHEN "POPULAR UPRISINGS" BEGAN TAKING OVER PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. SOUVANNA REPORTEDLY EXPLODED, CONTENDING THAT ONLY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT COULD NAME PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES, TO WHICH THE PL MINISTERS REPLIED THAT THIS SITUATION WAS NO LONGER VALID BECAUSE TIMES HAD CHANGED.

5. AS FOR KHAMKING, THE PGNU HAS ACCEPTED HIS RESIGNATION BUT TOOK NO ACTION ON HIS REQUEST FOR A YEAR'S LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

6. COMMENT. THERE IS INCREASING DEBATE IN THAILAND OVER WHETHER IT IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST FOR THAI-LAO RELATIONS TO BE SACRIFICED FOR THE SAKE OF PERMITTING FORMER LAO OFFICIALS SUCH AS KHAMKING TO REMAIN HERE. FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN ANNOUNCED JULY 29 THAT HE WILL HEAD A THAI DELEGATION TO VIENTIANE IN A MONTH TO MEET WITH PGNU AUTHORITIES IN AN ATTEMPT TO REMOVE IRRITANTS FROM THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. ONE OF THE CHIEF IRRITANTS IS THE PRESENCE OF THESE FORMER OFFICIALS. WE WILL SOON BE UNDER GREATER PRESSURE TO TAKE SOME OF THEM QUICKLY. WE HOPE WASHINGTON AUTHORIZATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** SREF, LA, TH, US, (KHAMKING SOUVANLASY)  
**To:** STATE  
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